

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 9, 2005. Claims 1 to 21 and 23 to 45 are in the application, of which Claims 1, 6, 11, 12, 26 and 32 to 44 are independent. Claim 45 has been newly added. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the term specified as indefinite in the Office Action.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 to 7, 9, 11, 12, 19 to 21 and 23 to 44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,686,954 (Yoshinobu). Claims 4, 13 and 16 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yoshinobu in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,002,394 (Schein). Claims 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yoshinobu and further in view of U.S. Patent No 6,088,722 (Hertz). Claims 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yoshinobu in further view of Schein and U.S. Patent No. 6,642,939 (Vallone). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The invention addresses a drawback of conventional methods for selecting a program to view on television. Conventional methods for selecting a program include manually searching a printed program table or electronic program guide (EPG), talking with friends about favorite programs, using filters based on selection attributes such as genre or players, and other methods. The inventors recognized that conventional methods of selecting a program require active participation from the user, despite the fact that many users are passive users who desire to utilize a passive program selection method. The inventors further recognized that some other users are information supply type users who

desire to share their program recommendations using a simple means, but not necessarily through verbal discourse.

The inventors sought to address these problems by providing a system that allows, for example, information supply type users to transmit program information such as program recommendations to an external apparatus, which is accessible by a passive user. Similarly, in a case where a user is passive, the inventors sought to provide a system that allows the input of guide information such as program recommendations from an information supply type user from an external apparatus, which is accessible by the information supply type user.

Claim 1 is characterized by a receiving apparatus that has a transmitting means for transmitting program information to an external apparatus, which is accessible by another user. For example, in relation to one embodiment of the invention, FIG. 4 of the Application shows an input window for inputting recommendations to be transmitted to an external device. The window of FIG. 4 has fields for a user to input a recommendation index and recommendation comments for a selected program. This recommendation information is collected in an export file shown in FIG. 5 of the Application, which depicts the recommendation index information at line (15) and the recommendation comments at line (17). The export file is transmitted to an external device, which is accessible by another user, such as a WWW server, a memory card, or another user's receiver.

Conversely, Claim 32 is characterized by a receiver having an input means for inputting recommendation guide information of a program selected by another user, from an external device, which is accessible by the another user. For example, FIG. 7 of

the Application depicts a window displaying such inputted recommendation information from other users according to one embodiment of the present invention. In FIG. 7, recommendation information from other users named Mika, Maraia, and Kiyanonman is input and displayed to the user as recommended program lists.

In contrast, Yoshinobu is seen to disclose receiving a broadcast signal of television programs and index data for the programs and displaying a television program selected by a user on the user's television. Specifically, the Office Action cites column 13, lines 45 to 65 of Yoshinobu, which discloses extracting the broadcast index data from the broadcast video images and displaying the video images of a program selected by the user on a screen of the user's CRT display.

As a result, Yoshinobu is not seen to disclose or fairly suggest anything like the claimed transmitting means or like the claimed inputting means. First, Yoshinobu's displaying video images on a CRT cannot be equated to transmitting program information to an external apparatus, which is accessible by another user. On the contrary, Yoshinobu's CRT is viewed by the user, who selects a program to be viewed, and it is not accessible by another user.

Second, Yoshinobu's receiving of broadcast index data of television programs is unlike inputting recommendation guide information of a program selected by another user, from an external apparatus, which is accessible by the another user. For one, unlike recommendation guide information of a program selected by another user, Yoshinobu discloses the index data is determined by the broadcasting station, which "expresses the contents of each of the programs to be broadcast that constitute the scheduled program information, with the classification items and detailed items therefor."

(Yoshinobu column 9, lines 64 to 67). In addition, Yoshinobu neither discloses nor suggests anything like the claimed external device, which is accessible by the another user. Rather, Yoshinobu's index file is created and broadcast from a broadcasting station.

Accordingly, Yoshinobu fails to disclose or fairly suggest at least the aspects of Claim 1 and Claim 32 described above.

Claims 6, 11, 33 to 35, and 39 to 41 are directed to apparatuses, methods, and recording mediums storing a program, respectively, having a transmitting aspect similar to Claim 1, and these independent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons described above for Claim 1.

Claims 12, 26, 36 to 38, and 42 to 44 are directed to apparatuses, methods, and recording mediums storing a program, respectively, having an inputting aspect similar to Claim 32, and these independent claims are believed allowable for at least the reasons described above for Claim 32.

The other claims in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

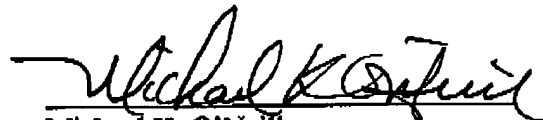
In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Turning to a formal matter, Applicants request the Examiner to provide an indication that he has considered U.S. Application No. 09/531,959, cited in the Information Disclosure Statement dated February 5, 2001.

Applicants also request an indication that the substitute formal drawings filed May 29, 2001, are acceptable.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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